

AIRLIFT Dispatch

Due to the holiday season, the Dec. 22 edition of the Airlift Dispatch will be the last until Jan. 11. Please plan submissions accordingly.

Vol. 40, No. 49

437th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, SC

Friday, Dec. 14, 2001



Photo by Navy PH2 David Mercil

Delivering the good

A Charleston AFB C-17 Globemaster III sits on the end of a runway at a forward deployed base while 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit equipment and troops are brought onboard. The aircraft is taking the equipment to an undisclosed location in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. CAFB personnel and aircraft are currently deployed around the world.

Disney for free

By Senior Airman
Jason Smith
 437 AW Public Affairs

Walt Disney World and Disneyland Resorts are offering active-duty military members complimentary admission to theme parks Jan. 1-April 30 as part of "Disney's Armed Forces Salute."

"Disney has always supported the Armed Forces," said Randy Gerber, Walt Disney parks and resorts military sales director. "We have a great relationship with over 250 bases. In this difficult time, we want to say 'thank you,' and give something back to those who serve the country."

The specials at Walt Disney World Resort, Fla., and Disneyland Resort, Calif., are slightly different, according to a Disney news release.

See DISNEY, page 2

Manning issues no big worry: Former Phoenix Readiness instructor brings annual training to 437 SFS

Story and photo by
Senior Airman Jason Smith
 437 AW Public Affairs

Instead of sending its troops to the training, the 437th Security Forces Squadron has brought the training to its troops.

Training requirements for deploying members don't change because of current conditions and manning issues. With an Aerospace Expeditionary Force rotation just around the corner, the squadron needs to get 15 people ready to go.

Sending that many security forces members to the Phoenix Readiness course could hurt the flights that already need augmentee support to meet certain security requirements. Luckily, Tech. Sgt. Michael White, four-year Phoenix Readiness instructor, arrived for duty at the 437 SFS just days before the Sept. 11 terrorist

attacks.

"I'm actually a regular flight member, working in training right now to make sure our people meet their annual requirements before they deploy," said White. "Due to high manning requirements right now, we can't get everyone to Fort Dix (N.J.) for sustainment training."

Phoenix Readiness trains all support personnel in common core contingency skills. The class in New Jersey puts Air Force members in realistic field scenarios. Functions of a joint task force are taught from the time an order is given until its completion. White has worked much of the same training into a two-week course at Charleston AFB.

"We're doing the Phoenix Readiness training on a smaller scale here," said White. "We have yearly requirements to get our folks trained before an AEF rotation. We've already fin-

ished some of the ancillary training to include self-aid buddy care, equipment issue, anti-terrorism measurements and weapons training. We

also just finished tactical handcuffing."

According to White, 80 percent of people who are being handcuffed will

resist in some way. During the training here, security forces personnel are taught maneuvers like the iron wrist take down and pain compliance. While these skills can prove useful in almost any police scenario, White said they could come in especially handy in a down range program.

Some of the more specialized training attendees are receiving includes prisoner of war handling, call for fire, fundamentals of patrolling and land navigation.

"We may have to know how



Tech. Sgt. Michael White (right), 437 SFS and former Phoenix Readiness instructor, conducts training at the ATSO area on Charleston AFB.

See SFS, page 3

IN THE NEWS

+ -shirts for troops

By Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter
437 AW Public Affairs

The American Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Services program recently launched an alternative to the "Any Servicemember" program, which was halted by officials earlier this year.

Through the Web site www.4troops.com, shoppers may purchase a T-shirt that reads, "Though Buildings May Fall, United We Stand!" or boxes of candy, according to a Dec. 7 Red Cross news release. Red Cross offices located at military facilities around the world will deliver the orders to deployed military members.

According to Bob Jones, director of community relations for the American Red Cross Carolina Lowcountry Chapter, the program will run throughout the holiday season.

"Something I think is nice is that there is a card attached to the gift," Jones said. "People sending the gifts can have their names put on the card or remain anonymous."

Another program feature allows shoppers to send the gift to a particular servicemember, Jones said. To utilize this feature, shoppers can call 1-800-565-4651 and provide the name and address of the servicemember for delivery. Orders may be placed 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

According to www.4troops.com, \$10 of every purchase goes to the Armed Forces Emergency Services program. AFES provides support to military personnel and their families, including financial help during urgent personal or family crises.

"Since the 'Any Servicemember'

mail program was halted by the Pentagon earlier this year, purchasing these candies or the T-shirt is an opportunity to support our military personnel stationed overseas and to benefit the program that supports military personnel and their families," said Silvester Whitfield, director of the AFES program of the Carolina Lowcountry Chapter, in the release. "I hope many Lowcountry citizens will use this opportunity to show their spirit by supporting our men and women in uniform."

In fiscal 2001, the Carolina Lowcountry AFES program provided services for nearly 2,400 military personnel, according to the release. The program also manages the International Services of the Red Cross.

In a separate release, the American Red Cross announced it is teaming up with Masterfoods USA, a Mars, Incorporated company, to launch new red, white and blue M&Ms. One-hundred percent of the profits from the specially packaged candies will go to the Red Cross to support year-round disaster relief effort.

"'Taking Care of America Every Day' is a perfect theme for this effort because that is exactly what the American Red Cross is all about," Kevin Titus, executive director of the Carolina Lowcountry Chapter, said in the release. "Because of generous companies like Masterfoods USA, we are able to provide lifesaving relief in communities nationwide, year-round."

Locally, the newly packaged candies can be purchased at the Commissary, Wal-Mart, Bi-Lo, Piggly Wiggly and Winn Dixie.

DISNEY

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Walt Disney World is offering active-duty service members a complimentary seven-day ticket during the offer period. Also, up to five family members and friends can receive a variety of park passes for 50 percent off. The tickets are good for the Walt Disney World theme park, Disney water parks, Pleasure Island and more, and must be used within seven days from the issue date.

Disneyland is offering 50 percent off the price of tickets purchased by active-duty members for up to five friends. Additionally, the military sponsor of the party will receive the same type of ticket for free.

Both offers apply to reservists and guardsmen who are on active-duty orders as well.

Members who are deployed or unable to go to the parks can still receive tickets at half off as long as they have a valid active ID card. All tickets must be picked up at Disney ticket windows.

Disney All-Star Resorts and the Disney Cruise Line have also joined the program. Select Disney resorts are offering rooms starting at \$49 per night, and the cruise line is extending special rates on all of its tropical cruise itineraries for most sailings from January-May.

"We've already received a tremendous amount of positive feedback for Disney's Armed Forces Salute," said Gerber. "I walked out of work very tired after finalizing the press releases and getting this whole thing together. I started getting responses saying 'this is the best offer yet,' and 'we're very proud of Disney.' It just felt great."

Military promotions are nothing new to Disney. Gerber said Walt Disney joined the Red Cross to help the war effort during World War I. During World War II, Disney offered the services of his best animators to help make training films for soldiers.

Keeping with the traditions and beliefs of its founder, Disney has sponsored many USO tours in the past, and recently, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, the company donated thousands of videos and DVDs for military distribution, according to Gerber.

Currently, Disney is finalizing public service announcements by some of its top talent on how people can help the effort of the United States in the war on terrorism. Disney talent is also preparing to travel to military installations overseas as

Chanukah: Festival of Lights

Every year between the end of November and December, Jewish people around the world celebrate Chanukah, the Festival of Lights.

Chanukah begins on the 25th day of the Hebrew month of Kislev, but the starting date on the western calendar varies from year to year. The holiday celebrates events that happened over 2,300 years ago in the land of Judea, which is now Israel.

In the land of Judea, there was a Syrian king, Antiochus, who ordered the Jewish people to reject their G-d, religion, customs and beliefs, and worship the Greek gods. While some did as they were told, many refused. One man who refused was Judah Maccabee.

Judah and his four brothers formed an army and chose "Maccabee," which means hammer, as their name. After three years of fighting, the Maccabees were successful in driving the Syrians from Israel and reclaiming the Temple in Jerusalem.

The Maccabees needed to clean the building and remove the Greek

symbols and statues. On the 25th day of the month of Kislev, they finished, and the temple was rededicated.

When Judah and his followers finished cleaning the temple, they lit the eternal light, or N'er Tamid, which is present in every Jewish house of worship. Once lit, the oil lamp should never be extinguished.

Only a tiny jug was found with enough oil for a single day. The lamp was filled and lit. The tiny amount of oil stayed lit not for one day, but for eight days, in what was called a miracle.

Jews celebrate Chanukah to mark the victory over the Syrians and the rededication of the Jerusalem Temple. The Festival of the Lights lasts for eight days to commemorate the miracle of the oil. The word Chanukah means "rededication."

In America, families celebrate Chanukah at home. They give and receive gifts, decorate the house, entertain friends and family, eat special foods and light the holiday menorah. **(Information from www.holidays.net/chanukah.)**

Senior Airman David Winner (left), Charleston AFB Jewish lay leader and 437th Communications Squadron, and Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Jon Stovall, 437th Airlift Wing chaplain, prepare a menorah beside the Base Chapel. Chanukah started with the lighting of the first candle Sunday night and will end Monday.

Photo by Senior Airman Jason Smith



part of a USO tour starting in January. While the show is all but finalized, Gerber said he couldn't release the names of any of the celebrities yet.

"We're always eager to give what we can to the military," Gerber said. "We're very proud of our corporate leadership. Without the support and green light from people like Michael Eisner (Disney CEO), we wouldn't be able to sponsor programs like this."

News of the offer seemed to spread quickly around Charleston AFB, and many military members already expressed excitement and gratitude. Master Sgt. Charles Gosner, 437th Logistics Support Squadron first sergeant, said it's a fantastic offer.

"Obviously, if you don't have the funds, it's a great deal," Gosner said. "Disney is really taking care of us, and we

owe them a debt of gratitude. They did this out of the kindness of their hearts."

Airman 1st Class Erin Prall, 437th Airlift Wing chaplain's assistant, said she had plans to go to Disney World already, but the free offer will get her there sooner.

"I'm definitely going in January," said Prall. "Free admission to Disney World? You can't beat that. Count me in."

The Disney promotion doesn't apply to retirees or traditional Guard and Reserve members, but Gerber said discounted tickets are still available through base ticket offices. The offer also doesn't apply to Disney locations outside the United States.

For more information about Disney tickets, call (407) 939-7424. For more information about Disney Cruise Line specials, call 1-888-325-2500.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Jones

The C-17 days of Christmas

Tech. Sgt. John Travis (left) and Staff Sgt. Kevin Elkins, both from the 437th Supply Squadron Fuels Management Flight, decorate Park Circle for the holidays Dec. 5. Charleston AFB personnel decorate the area next to the North Charleston Recreation Department every year.

Safety first

'Rudolph the UL-approved Reindeer?' 437 Safety Office offers holiday tips

By Staff Sgt. Bart Craven
437 AW Safety

Each year, thousands of American families suffer needless injuries, destruction of property and loss of life because of accidents involving holiday decorations. Many of these accidents can be traced to unsafe or improperly used decorations.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates approximately 3,500 people will be treated in hospital emergency rooms for injuries associated with holiday decorations. Here are some tips to follow to ensure a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

Christmas Trees

- The most important

safety factor to consider when buying a natural tree is its freshness

- If purchasing a real tree, ensure it's fresh by pulling at the needles; if they fall off easily, don't purchase the tree

- If purchasing an artificial tree, ensure it is stamped "fire-retardant"

- When placing lights on the tree, make sure they are not faulty or overloaded; use only "UL" approved lighting

- Unplug Christmas trees when leaving the house

Holiday Lighting

- Be careful and watchful when burning candles

- Make sure candles are placed in sturdy, non-combustible holders and kept well away from decorations

- Check candles frequently

- Don't leave candles unattended in a room with children, and keep them out of children's reach at all times

- If using a Menorah for Chanukah, electrical models can be used instead of candles

Cooking

- Supervise the kitchen at all time when cooking; do not leave cooking food unattended

- Don't overload electrical circuits with numerous electrical appliances

- If cooking outside the home, cook away from the house, not under a carport or overhang, and ensure a fire extinguisher is readily available

For more information about holiday safety, call the safety office at 963-5596.

SFS

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to affectively deal with POWs," White said. "You can't really hog tie and carry back a 200-pound man 20 miles to your base. We're teaching how to handle a situation like that while adhering to the Geneva Convention."

Even though the Army and other specialized career fields in the Air Force are mainly responsible for calling in for fire support, White said it's a skill security forces may need on the battlefield. At a minimum, they must be able to get mortar rounds on target.

Class participants may also be seen participating in ruck marches around the base. The two-mile hikes usually take place in the less populated areas of the base, so as not to create traffic problems.

"The book world isn't the same as the real world," White said. "We need to learn what we read in field manuals and books, but we also need to learn from people who've been there. I talked to many people who were in Albania, and they told me about walking long distances in thick mud. They were humping in mountains, and a lot of them weren't physically prepared. That's why we're trying to get our folks' feet broke in."

On Monday, the class ruck marched to the ATSO area for some training outside the classroom. White said learning the environment and knowing when something is out of place is perhaps the most important combat skill someone can have.

The class used Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System gear (similar to laser tag with real weapons and blanks) and met resistance during exercise missions. It was a way to combine all the recent classroom training they received into a realistic exercise.

Although security forces members have all the skills they need to deploy at any time, Tech. Sgt. William Cline, 437 SFS Unit Training NCOIC, said every skill is perishable.

"We're reinforcing what they already know," Cline said. "They don't use these combat skills enough to master them all. It's just like spring training for ball players. They know how to swing the bat, but they need to fine tune it before the season actually starts."

Although it would be difficult in current conditions, White said he would like to see infantry skills come naturally for security forces.

"We don't want someone in the woods to see all the trees and pretty flowers," said White. "We want them to see key terrain or a tactical advantage. In this amount of time, that's not totally realistic. We want to refresh them enough so they'll know exactly what to do if they have to do it."

Even with all the extra posts, hours and training, Cline said morale in the squadron has remained high. There will always be one or two people complaining, he said, but leadership has done a great job of trying to keep folks motivated.

"It's real hard to feel sorry for yourself when images of the World Trade Center are all over TV," Cline said. "When you see bodies getting carried out of mounds of concrete and steel, it really makes you understand why you're out here working and training."

Both Cline and White agreed they support Operation Enduring Freedom 100 percent, and neither is asking anything from the troops that they wouldn't do themselves.

"Sure, I'd like some payback," said Cline. "I get tired of playing. It's like practicing for the big game and not getting to play. Let's go in and do it!"

Pets stress over holidays too

Amidst the hustle and stresses of the holiday season, people with pets may have some additional responsibilities and concerns. Charleston AFB Veterinary Services offers the following tips for pet care during the holidays:

Traveling with pets

- The best thing to do if traveling by car is to get the animal acclimated to driving conditions; take short trips around the block or to a friend's house, and work up to longer distances; use a pet carrier and try to place a blanket or toy the pet is familiar with in the carrier with the pet

- Airplane travel can be quite stressful for a pet; the best thing is to provide the pet as much comfort as possible; a familiar carrier, toys or blanket will help

- Many animals do not need medications to travel; some animals do get motion sickness, or they may get stressed and out of control; in these extreme situations, speak with a veterinarian for advice

Staying behind

- If a pet must be left behind, leave it with a responsible person who will remember to give medications, how much to feed and other important care instructions; owners should leave emergency numbers for themselves and veterinary facilities

- If the pet will have to stay in a boarding facility, make sure all vaccinations are current, and consult with the boarding facility on what is

required for the animal to be boarded; ask around to find reputable facilities

While at home

- Remember, pet-owners' holiday diets should not become their pets' holiday diet; chocolates, other sweets and table food are not healthy for the pet

- With holiday decorations, treat pets like children; watch for the cat or bird in the Christmas tree, the dog chewing light wires and the ferret ripping open gift boxes; this will help to avoid serious health risks to pets

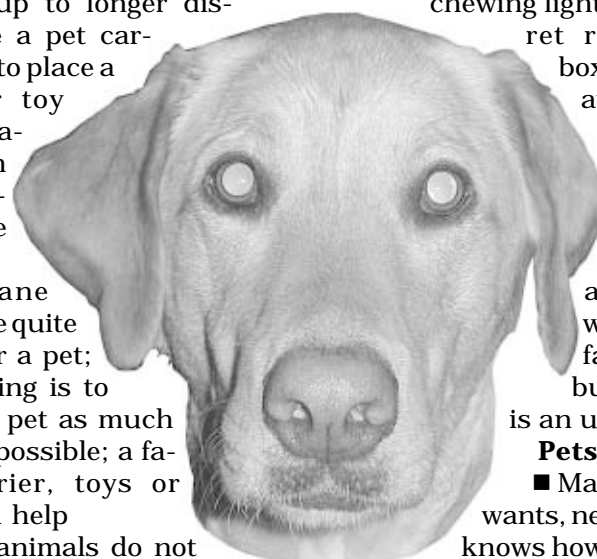
- Continue to give the pet its normal amount of attention; this is always difficult when friends and family are visiting, but a neglected pet is an unhappy pet

Pets as gifts

- Make sure the person wants, needs, can afford and knows how to take care of the pet; remember, puppies/kittens turn into dogs/cats that can live an average of 10-20 years; a long-term commitment is needed; if the pet is for a child, remember who usually ends up taking care of it

- Consult with a vet before getting a pet; get all medical records and information possible from the person and place where the animal is adopted "Consult with the base veterinarian or a civilian veterinarian if you have any questions concerning the care of your pet," says Staff Sgt. Larry Linney, 437th Services Squadron NCOIC of veterinary services.

For more information, call 963-4264.



NEWS BRIEFS

Charleston Profile



Photo by Master Sgt. Dan Murphy

Staff Sgt. Darryl Brown 14th Airlift Squadron

Staff Sgt. Darryl Brown is an aircrew resource manager with the 14th Airlift Squadron. He is currently deployed to Ramstein AB, Germany, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"I always volunteer for contingency operations," said Brown. "It's very rewarding being here. We are supporting a mission with a definite purpose."

Brown's job when he arrived was to establish a database called the Computer Aided Aircrew Scheduling System for the aircrews.

"We handle anything aircrew related," said Brown. "We built the database system in 12 days, working 17-18 hours a day. It was just myself and one other person."

The job is diverse and extremely important, not only to the deployed personnel but to those at Charleston AFB.

"We manage flying hours of the aircrews and relay their data back to Charleston," said Brown. "We act as a conduit to get things like fuel usage back home, which enables the bills to be paid by the home stations."

Brown normally works a 12-hour shift, eight days in a row with one day off. With only two people assigned, days off are a luxury.

"I normally go to Mom's Video and Audio store here on Ramstein on my day off," said Brown. "I get some good videos and kick back in my room. I also go to the fitness center for a workout or to do some jogging."

Brown, a Walterboro, S.C., native who will become a technical sergeant in February, has served 12 years in the Air Force, all at CAFB. His wife, Paula, also served eight years in the Air Force. They have a 17-month-old daughter named Jazmine.

service member within one business day. Go to www.AirForceTimes.com to participate.

Angel tree: The Family Support Center and the Base Chapel have angel trees with the gender and age of children on them. People can pull a card from the tree and return a wrapped gift for the child they selected.

Embry-Riddle: Class registration for Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's Spring Term I is going on now through Jan. 6. Classes are held at the Community Education Center. For more information, call 767-8912.

AFSA: The Air Force Sergeants Association's mission is to advocate improved quality-of-life and economic fairness that will support the well-being of Air Force enlisted personnel and their families. Over 155,000 people belong to AFSA. Charleston AFB AFSA holds a meeting the second Tuesday of every month, 4:30 p.m., at the Charleston Club. Everyone is invited to attend the meeting. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Tundra Gatewood at 963-6901.

Family Support Center

Pre-deployment Briefing: Monday, Dec. 24 and 30, 8-8:30 a.m., and Thursday and Dec. 27, 4-4:30 p.m.

Smooth Move: Tuesday, 8:30 a.m.-noon.

Resume II: Tuesday, 9-10:30 a.m., and 10:30 a.m.-noon.

Troops-To-Teachers: Tuesday, 10-11 a.m.

TSP Briefing: Tuesday, 3-4:30 p.m., and 6-7:30 p.m.

All workshops are held at the FSC unless otherwise noted. For more information or to register, call the Family Support Center at 963-4406.

Around the base

CLEP: There will be a preparatory math CLEP class held Monday-Wednesday, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., at the Community Education Center. Another CLEP class has been scheduled for Jan. 14-16. Students who successfully complete the class will be administered the CLEP General Mathematics exam Dec. 20. The class is offered to Air Force personnel assigned to Charleston AFB. Others eligible to use the Community Education Center may sign up for the class on a space available basis. For more information, call 963-4574.

Flu shots: The 437th Medical Group has received all of its influenza vaccine shipment and is now able to offer the vaccine to all authorized beneficiaries. An immunization team will be giving the flu shot only in the Base Theater Tuesday, 7:30 a.m.-noon. Only those with their shot records may receive the shot. Immunization Clinic hours are Mondays-Wednesdays and Fridays, 7:30-11:30 a.m., and 1-4:30 p.m., and Thursdays, 7:30-11:30 a.m. For more information, call 963-6714.

AFCOMAP: The Air Force Cadet Officer Mentor Action Program is sponsoring a professional development lunch Tuesday, 11 a.m., at the

Charleston Club. All military and civilian employees are invited to attend. Retired Lt. Col. Lester Pittman, Middle East expert and scholar, will be the guest speaker. For more information, call Lt. Col. Ivan Sherard at 963-6911.

First Six: The First Six will be meeting Tuesday, 3 p.m., at the Charleston Club. The guest speaker will be Senior Master Sgt. Michael Freebury. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Lisa Barkman at 963-4508.

Chiefs' group: The Charleston AFB Chiefs' Group is holding a monthly meeting Thursday, 11 a.m., at the Charleston Club. Representatives from Bank of America will address the group, and lunch will be provided. All chiefs and chief selectees are invited to attend.

Commissary: The Charleston AFB Commissary holiday hours are as follows:

Dec. 24, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Dec. 25, 26 and Jan. 1, closed
Dec. 31, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

Holiday messages: From now until Dec. 31, Circuit City stores are videotaping holiday wishes of family members whose sponsors are serving overseas. The messages will be put on DVD and sent to the service member. A valid ID is required to use this free

service.

Holiday postcards: Air Force Times is sponsoring Operation Postcard, an online service allowing family and friends of airmen overseas to create and send free color postcards through the APO/FPO mail. Personalized postcards will be printed and mailed to the

Holiday Chapel schedule Catholic services

Advent Reconciliation Service: Tuesday, 6 p.m.

Children's Christmas Vigil: Dec. 24, 5 p.m.

Caroling: Dec. 24, 11:30 p.m.

Midnight Mass: Dec. 24, midnight.

New Year's Eve Mass: Dec. 31, 5 p.m.

Protestant services

Christmas Cantata: Sunday, 11 a.m.

Christmas Caroling with the Truth Project: Dec. 23, 6:30 p.m.

Candlelight Service: Dec. 24, 7 p.m.



COMMENTARY

About the paper

AIRLIFT
Dispatch

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The deadline for submitting stories for space-available publication is noon Friday, preceding the desired publication date. The *Airlift Dispatch* reserves the right to edit all copy submitted for publication.

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President makes first official visit to Charleston

By Col. Karl Young
437 AW vice commander

This week marked a milestone in Charleston AFB's history when President George W. Bush arrived and departed here for a speaking engagement at The Citadel. The last speaking engagement in the local area by a sitting president was when his father, the senior Bush, visited in 1992. Because of his tight schedule, it was an informal arrival and departure, which meant only a few people had an opportunity to watch. This is quite common when his specific objective is to speak somewhere else. It also makes security arrangements much easier.

Special kudos to Lt. Col. **Vic Sowers**, 437th Support Group deputy commander and project officer for handling the myriad of support requirements for the president. Capt. **Brady Goebel**, 437th Security Forces Squadron, and his people; Lt. Col. **Ben McCollum**, 437th Logistics Group deputy commander; and members of the 437th Aerial Port Squadron orchestrated many support arrangements for the visit and performed superbly. The White House Secret Service was extremely pleased with our support, and it was a true team effort to make the visit happen so seamlessly. Thanks to everyone who played a part in the successful visit.

We hosted Brig. Gen. Dean Fox, Director of Civil Engineering, Headquarters Air Mobility Command, and his staff for the Senior Executive Review Group Tuesday and Wednesday. This group of CE officials performed a review of our ongoing and recently completed construction projects on the base.

Speaking of construction, we broke ground for the new \$11.5 million commissary Tuesday. The new commissary sales floor will be more than one-and-a-half times larger, with 40,000 square feet compared to the current 26,312 square feet. The phased project begins with warehouse construction in the parking lot next to the Base Exchange and Shoppette. After that, the old warehouse will be

demolished and the new store sales area construction will begin in that location. Finally, when the new facility has opened, the old store will be torn down to make way for additional parking. The new entrance will face Dorchester Road.

The project was awarded Sept. 25 to Medlin Construction, San Antonio, and is scheduled to be complete around February 2003. Funding for the project came from the surcharge shopper's pay on groceries.

I had a great time participating in the Marine Corps Toys for Tots golf tournament held at the Wrenwoods Course Saturday. They made about \$1,800, and each golfer donated a



Photo by Lt. Col. Ed Memi

President George W. Bush returns the salute of Brig. Gen. Gerry Black, 315th Airlift Wing commander, upon arrival at CAFB Tuesday. Bush visited Charleston to give a speech at the Citadel.

toy. It was an opportunity to have a lot of fun while contributing to a worthy cause.

The National Safety Council predicts that 381 people will live to enjoy the Christmas holiday because they took a few seconds to buckle their safety belts before starting out on trips to visit relatives or to shop. The sad news is that an estimated 522 people may die in traffic crashes over the Christmas holiday period, which begins at 6 p.m., Dec. 21, and ends at 11:59 p.m., Dec. 25. Of these 522 victims, 141 will not be wearing seat belts. Not everyone buckles up, and the excuses seem absurd in the face of these statistics.

Seat belts save lives and help prevent serious, disabling injuries. Non-fatal, disabling injuries are estimated to climb to 27,700 over the Christmas holiday period. Buckle up; it's the smart thing to do!

Besides wearing your seat belt, there are other things you can do to ensure safe and happy holiday travel. Make sure all children ride in the back seat in age-appropriate safety seats. Leave early for your destination to avoid frustration and speed-related collisions in case of heavy holiday traffic or inclement weather, and don't let drinking and driving wreck your holiday celebration. Even moderate consumption of wine or beer impairs a driver's ability to make the proper decisions on the road.

As we approach the New Year, now is the time to start working on your annual award packages. We have a number of outstanding people who have really gone beyond what is required. Nominate your folks for these awards and get them recognized among their peers. Recognition can be a great motivator for our people, and I can't say enough about its importance. As leaders and supervisors, it is our chance to put our people under the spotlight and let the rest of the Air Force know about their pride, professionalism and passion in doing their jobs. It is the least we can do to say thanks for all their hard work.

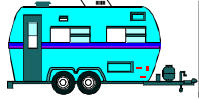
Brig. Gen. Rusty Findley reports he is very busy at his deployed location and remains in good spirits. His thoughts are always with the wing, and he wishes everyone well during the upcoming holidays.

I've been invited to a number of squadron and group holiday functions, and I thoroughly enjoyed meeting with everybody and look forward to attending even more events in the remaining weeks. I always enjoy meeting our great people in the wing and consider it a privilege to serve at the finest airlift wing on the face of the planet.



Courtesy photo

Jimmy Estes, Defense Commissary Agency Zone 29 manager, Col. Karl Young, 437th Airlift Wing vice commander, and 437 AW Command Chief Master Sgt. Harvey Hampton broke ground for a new \$11.5 million Commissary Tuesday.



Off duty--Around town



Sports:

Stingrays: Tonight and Saturday, 7:30 p.m., vs. Toledo. For more information, call 554-6060.

Lowgators: Sunday, 4 p.m., vs. Fayetteville. For more information, call 764-4013 or 416-1162.

Entertainment:

Theater: The Company Company presents "Good Time Variety Hour," a family holiday special tonight-Saturday, 7 p.m., and Saturday-Sunday, 3 p.m., at the Footlight Players Theater, 20 Queen St. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for seniors, children and groups of 10 or more. For more information, call 722-4487.

Theater: The Charleston Stage Company presents "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," Barbara Robinson's 1988 comedy, at the Dock Street Theatre, 135 Church St., tonight-Saturday, 6 p.m. For more information, call 965-4032.

Theater: The Charleston Stage company produces a musical adaptation of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" tonight-Saturday, 8 p.m., and Sunday, 3 p.m., at the Dock Street Theatre, 135 Church St. For more information, call 965-4032.

Comedy: Audiences at the Have Nots! Holiday Extravaganza can expect unscripted laughs when Charleston's favorite comedy trio and friends take the stage for some improv fun, tonight-Saturday and Thursday-Dec. 22, 8 p.m., at Theatre 99, 30 Cumberland St. Tickets are \$10. For more information, call 853-6687.

Live music: Michael Rose of Black Uhuru performs tonight, 10 p.m., at the Music Farm. Tickets are \$12. For more information, call 722-8904.

Sea Island Christmas: Enjoy storytelling and performances by Ann Caldwell and the Magnolia Singers Saturday, 4 p.m., at the Ravenel Caw Caw Interpretive Center. Tickets are \$17.50. For more information or to register, call 795-4FUN.

Echoes of Angels: The Charleston Renaissance Ensemble performs ethereal music of ages past Sunday, 3 p.m., at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, 120 Broad St. A \$10 donation is requested, or \$7 donation for students and seniors. For more information or advance tickets, call 216-8035.

Live music: Stretch Arm Strong, with Burned Out Bright and Voices of Conflict, performs Sunday, 8 p.m., at the Music Farm. Tickets are \$8. For more information, call 722-8904.

Events:

Festival of lights: Drive or walk through over one million lighted holiday and Charleston structures, now-Jan. 1, at the James Island County Park, 871 Riverland Dr, Sundays-Thursdays, 5:30-10 p.m., Fridays-Saturdays, 5:30-11 p.m. The event costs \$10 per car, truck or family van, or \$8 Sundays-Thursdays with a canned good donation. For more information, call 795-7275.

Marion Square festivities: Holiday Magic on Marion Square features children's choirs; gospel, classical, folk, jazz and bluegrass music; skits; storytelling; face-painting; crafts and photos with Santa daily, now-Dec. 24. The event runs Mondays-Fridays 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and 4-8 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Sundays, 1-5 p.m. Marion Square is located on Calhoun Street, between Meeting and King streets. The event is free. For more information, call 724-7305.

Listings are published on a space-available basis at the discretion of the editor of the Airlift Dispatch. Events listed are subject to change without notice. Those interested in attending an event should call ahead to confirm the date and time. To submit an event for Off duty, send a fax with all pertinent information and a call-back number to 963-5604.

FEATURE

Nothing moves without transportation

Vehicle maintenance keeps CAFB in motion

**Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter**
437 AW Public Affairs

Keeping a fleet of vehicles ready and able to carry out the mission is the job of the 437th Transportation Squadron Vehicle Maintenance Flight.

According to Chief Master Sgt. Edgar Gates, vehicle maintenance flight chief, the flight maintains vehicles for the entire wing; 636 of them valued at \$60 million.

Gates said the flight has a vehicle-in-commission rate of 91.3 percent, meaning it maintains an annual average of more than 9 of 10 vehicles on the road at all times.

Maintaining such a high rate is quite a feat, according to Gates, when one considers 42 percent of the wing's vehicles have exceeded their life expectancy, with many of the models manufactured in the 1980s.

The flight's 75 technicians are divided into several different functional areas: customer service; maintenance control and analysis; general purpose; special purpose; allied trades; 463L; refueling maintenance; fire truck maintenance; and material control.

When a vehicle arrives at the vehicle maintenance flight, the customer service section receives the vehicle write up, according to Tech. Sgt. Jay Birtch, NCOIC of

customer service. The section then performs a total vehicle inspection, noting any other discrepancies that may have been overlooked during the initial write up. Then, a work order is made and sent to the maintenance control and analysis section while the vehicle is sent to the proper shop for repair.

When the work order gets to the maintenance control and analysis section, a number of events occur.

This section is responsible for workload control, according to Jim Vansant, chief of maintenance control and analysis. Maintenance control and analysis tracks scheduled and unscheduled maintenance, compiling the data to watch for trends in areas such as accidents, abuses and material deficiencies. One area of the section, fleet management, tracks vehicles from the time they're ordered or arrive at Charleston AFB until they leave the base.

Each of the different maintenance oriented sections serves a different purpose, according to Gates.

The general-purpose shop is responsible for maintaining and repairing 296 pieces of general purpose equipment, which includes everything from sedans to tractors, according to Staff Sgt. Donald Gworek, vehicle mechanic.

"It's kind of funny, most of the stuff we have is as old as most of the mechanics we have," Gworek said.

CAFB's 246 pieces of special equipment are repaired and maintained in the special purpose shop. According to Jim Brown, special equipment shop, the section's main focus is heavy

equipment, such as flightline towing equipment, mobile staircases, front loaders, graders, bulldozers and forklifts.

Allied trades, better known as the auto body shop, is responsible for vehicle bodies.

"Unlike the other shops, which only work on certain vehicles, we work on all of the different types of vehicles," said Staff Sgt. Jerry Carpenter, allied trades. "We're responsible for the entire vehicle body, from corrosion to accidents to broken door handles and glass. We do basically everything a shop downtown does."

463L equipment includes k-loaders, forklifts, tugs and other material handling equipment used mainly by the 437th Aerial Port Squadron to load aircraft, according to Senior Airman Robert Cummings, 463L shop. The section is also responsible for maintaining equipment located in Puerto Rico and Jamaica and at airfields in Savannah, Ga., and Beaufort, S.C. All told, 118 vehicles at CAFB fall into the 463L category.

Staff Sgt. Elmo Lameg works in

the refueling maintenance section and said his shop maintains and repairs the 26 refueling vehicles at CAFB. The section also maintains and calibrates the manual and automated controls used in refueling operations.

The fire truck maintenance section maintains a firefighting fleet of 25 vehicles, half of which are located here and half at North Auxiliary Air Field. According to Staff Sgt. Chester Greenhalgh, fire truck maintenance, shop members travel back and forth to North Field at least once a week.

Parts for the different shops are provided by the material control section. Staff Sgt. Glenjulita Mazyck said the section works much like an AutoZone or other parts store. Technicians order the parts they need, and this section procures the parts from one of a number of vendors.

Each piece of the vehicle maintenance puzzle fits together to keep Team Charleston's people, vehicles, aircraft and mission rolling.

The 437 TRANS motto says it best: nothing moves without transportation.



Staff Sgt. Aaron Harris, 437 TRANS, grinds a security forces vehicle, preparing it for sanding and painting. Harris is a member of the allied trades section of the vehicle maintenance flight. The section performs many of the same services a civilian auto-body shop provides.



Airman 1st Class Lara Martin, a general purpose maintenance technician, gives 1st Lt. Iven King, 437 TRANS Vehicle Maintenance Flight commander, a look at fluid levels in a Charleston AFB patrol car.

Boozing can ruin holidays

CAFB medical experts warn about negative effects of alcohol

By Master Sgt. Paul Ahlberg
437 MDG Behavioral Sciences Flight

There are many opportunities for alcohol-impaired people to cause injury and death to themselves and to others. Driving a car, flying an airplane, using heavy machinery or industrial equipment, and participating in winter recreational activities, such as sledding and skiing, become dangerous when you choose to become impaired by alcohol use.

Over this past year, 24 Team Charleston members have chosen to take the risk to become impaired by alcohol and drive.

According to a study by the Transport and Road Research Laboratory, one-tenth of all motor vehicle accidents with serious injury result from driving with excess alcohol in the blood. One-third of drivers and motorcycle riders killed have alcohol levels above the Uniform Code of Military Justice limit (.10). On Friday and Saturday nights, between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m., two-thirds of drivers and riders killed in car crashes have alcohol levels above the legal limit. Also, alcohol-related traffic accidents are the leading cause of death among people under the age of 24.

Staff Sgt. John Rhodes, 437th Medical Group Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program NCOIC, said, "Drinking and driving carries many other consequences as well. The worst being the life sentenced to guilt, pain and suffering the offender causes the victim, their family, themselves and their own family."

Alcohol has many effects on the body, especially the areas of the brain that affect the ability to drive. Alcohol may give a good feeling; actually it is a central nervous system depressant slowing down the processes in the brain. It decreases muscle coordination and slows reaction time, blurs vision and finally impairs the ability to judge speed, distance and reaction to the unexpected.

Lt. Col. (Dr.) Frank Budd, Behavioral Sciences Flight commander said, "Driving under the influence of alcohol is often a symptom of an alcohol problem. It often reflects poor judgment in overall use of alcohol, with a DUI only being a problem when caught."

Team Charleston had one of the lowest DUI rates in the command in 2000. Unfortunately, this year DUIs have increased as Charleston AFB

maintains one of the highest incident rates in Air Mobility Command. The combined efforts of senior leadership, all commanders, supervisors, law enforcement, helping agencies and individual members and their families will enable the base to reduce the number of DUIs.

The Air Force maintains driving under the influence is a serious breach of discipline. It affects the family, the health and well-being of the individual and others. It also degrades mission readiness.

Catherine Hallett, ADAPT program manager, said, "It is the responsibility of every Team Charleston member to encourage responsible alcohol use and help prevent DUIs."

Here are some guidelines that may prevent DUI incidents on and off-base:

- Ideally, if you're planning to drive, do not drink; even small quantities of alcohol can impair performance

- Plan ahead, before drinking starts; where are you going, how are you getting there, how are you returning and how much are you going to drink

- Use the wingman system; go out with a friend who is not drinking or a group with a non-drinking designated

driver

- Have your squadron's designated driver program card and numbers available; use a cab or call your supervisor for a safe ride

- Do not drink on an empty stomach

- Eat while you are drinking

- Drink slowly and limit the amount you drink to not more than two-three drinks; remember it takes one hour for your body to process one drink; most DUI drinkers have more than five drinks; time is the only thing that will sober you up

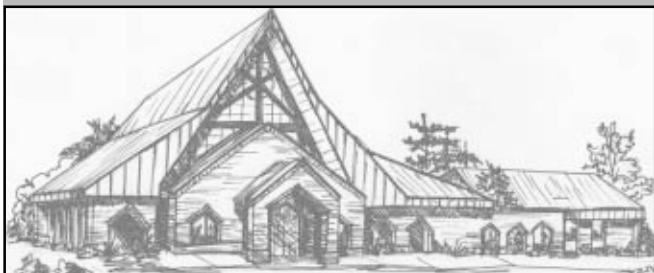
- Be a responsible party host and ensure your guests have a safe way home; take keys, call a cab for them, take them home if you have not been drinking or let them spend the night

- Serve a variety of non-alcoholic beverages in addition to food at your parties; have an enjoyable activity for your guests to prevent excessive use of alcohol

- Always use good common sense when you use alcohol; always use it responsibly and remember it is a drug and will impair you eventually; if you know someone who is drinking and driving, set them straight; you may save a life

For more information about alcohol, call 963-6852.

Chapel schedule



107 Arthur Drive

Office hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Phone: 963-2536. After duty hours, call the command post at 963-2531 for emergencies only.

Catholic Services

Saturday -- 4 p.m. Reconciliation, 5 p.m. Mass.

Sunday -- 9:30 a.m. Mass, 9:30 a.m. Children's Church.

Weekdays -- 11:30 a.m. Mass, Sacrament of Baptism pre-baptismal classes are held the first Sunday of each month at 11 a.m. in the Chapel Annex. For Sacrament of Marriage, call the Catholic chaplain six months prior to the wedding.

Protestant Services

Sunday -- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School in Bldg. 245, 11 a.m. Traditional Worship Service, 11 a.m. Children's Church.

Thursday -- 7 p.m. Praise and Worship contemporary service.

Buddhist: Columbia Shambhala Meditation Center, Suite 109, Columbia, S.C. 29405. Phone: (803) 254-9048.

Orthodox: Holy Trinity, Greek Orthodox Church, 30 Race St., Charleston, S.C. Phone: 577-2063.

Jewish: Call Jewish Lay Leader: Senior Airman David Winner at 963-2676.

Islamic: Al-Jami Ar-Rasheed, 1998 Hugo Ave., Charleston Heights, S.C. Phone: 554-1773.

Movie schedule

Admission prices:

Adults/Children -- 99 cents

Any child under 17 years of age requires a parent or adult guardian (21 years old) to purchase an admission ticket for the minor child to view R-rated movies. The ticket office opens 30 minutes prior to start of movie, unless otherwise noted.



Movie schedules are provided by AAFES. Patrons should call 963-3333 to verify movie titles, running times and start times, which are subject to change.

Tonight, 7:30 p.m.

"Domestic Disturbance" – John Travolta

Frank Morrison, a divorced father, discovers that his son Danny's new stepfather, Kurt, is not what he made himself out to be. Danny tells his father that he saw Kurt murder someone, and now Danny must live in the same house with a killer. Nobody believes Danny, except his father. Frank sets out on a mission to rescue his son from a life-threatening situation. **(PG-13) 90 minutes**

Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

"K-PAX" – Kevin Spacey

In the afternoon of a mugging at Grand Central Station, the police turn Prot over to Dr. Powell, a psychiatrist at the public hospital. Powell has treated plenty of delusionals in his career and figures it's only a matter of time before he cracks Prot's veneer. **(PG-13) 120 minutes**

Dec. 21, 7:30 p.m.

"Heist" – Gene Hackman

Joe has a beautiful, young wife, money owed to him and a job he loves; he's a thief. Everything goes sour when he gets caught on a security camera tape, he's shortchanged on the money he's owed, and his wife may be betraying him. **(R) 110 minutes**

Fitness & Sports

Stockdale stocks win in lucky 13

By the Swami

Pigskin Prognosticator

Jeffrey Stockdale is the lucky winner for week 13 with his 14-1 record.

Stockdale's only loss was the Giants game. He, along with 89 percent of the pigskin pickers, picked the Giants to beat the Cowboys. The Swami agrees with him on picking the Giants.

"Anytime you pick against the Cowboys, your chances of winning

are pretty good," said the Swami. "Don't feel bad for losing that game, you picked the right team."

Is it time for a new "America's Team?" How about the Steelers or Rams? Those are some tough, gritty teams, and they don't get in trouble. Even loyal Dallas fans around Charleston AFB are jumping off the Cowboy bandwagon. Way to go!

Stockdale was tied with Lawrence "Skyking" Strother going into Monday night's game, but Strother picked the hapless Colts.

Strother finished in second place with his 13-2 record along with six others. One of those six, last year's Swami Cup champion, Dennis "Aldo the Greek" Ingold, was spotted in the BX last week purchasing a dozen Sharpie pens. When approached by his followers, Ingold told them he was preparing for his autograph session after he wins the Swami Cup again this year. Yes, Aldo is in first place, but not by much. With four weeks to go, anything can happen.

Now the Swami knows you are wondering who did the worst. There were five losers tied for the dreaded cellar-dweller position with

records of 8-7 in what was a relatively easy week for most others. A couple of those in the bottom are regulars, Speedy and Dutch. Also joining the losers are Jeffrey Fuqua, Scott Greer and Curtis Peterson.

Peterson forgot to pick three games, so the Swami picked the losers for him.

Speaking of losers and picking, Fuqua has picked the Bills every week. What do Fuqua and the Bills have in common besides losing? Apparently, Fuqua is not new to losing. He was so elated last week when the Bills won their second game of the year, he said he would keep his lucky tightie whities on until they lose again. Yikes! Stay away from him.



Photo illustration by Senior Airman Jason Smith
The Swami was spotted recently hanging around reindeer farms and giving predictions on who has been naughty and nice.

Week 15

Name/Phone #: _____

Comments: _____

Saturday, Dec. 22

Miami @ New England

Philadelphia @ San Francisco

Tennessee @ Oakland

Sunday, Dec. 23

Buffalo @ Atlanta

Chicago @ Washington

Cincinnati @ Baltimore

Cleveland @ Green Bay

Detroit @ Pittsburgh

New Orleans @ Tampa Bay

St. Louis @ Carolina

San Diego @ Kansas City

Seattle @ New York Giants

Dallas @ Arizona

Jacksonville @ Minnesota

Sunday, Dec. 23, 8:30 p.m.

New York Jets @ Indianapolis

Sunday night total points: _____

Swami's Sunday night points: **41**

Swami's picks are in bold and underlined.

Send your picks to: Swami@charleston.af.mil

Picks may be dropped at the Public Affairs office in Bldg. 1600, Room 224.

Picks must be submitted by Friday, Dec. 21, 4 p.m.